

1 AN ACT relating to elementary literacy and making an appropriation therefor.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 171 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The Kids Love to Read Program is hereby established. The purpose of the*
6 *program shall be to promote the development of a comprehensive statewide*
7 *initiative for encouraging students in kindergarten through grade five (5) to*
8 *develop and continue a love of reading and learning. For purposes of this section,*
9 *"state program" means the Kids Love to Read Program and "statewide program*
10 *provider" means the nonprofit organization chosen by the Department for*
11 *Libraries and Archives to deliver the program.*

12 *(2) State program funds shall be used to provide, through the Kids Love to Read*
13 *Program, one (1) book each week of the school year to each registered child in*
14 *kindergarten through grade five (5). Books shall be sent to each child's home at*
15 *no cost to families. The state program shall contribute a fifty percent (50%)*
16 *match of funds, if available, necessary for the program.*

17 *(3) The Department for Libraries and Archives shall administer the state program,*
18 *including determining a statewide program provider. A nonprofit organization*
19 *shall be eligible to apply to be the statewide program provider. The statewide*
20 *program provider shall be selected by the department based on evidence of the*
21 *applicant's ability to:*

22 *(a) Deliver an evidence-based self-selected reading program consisting of*
23 *independent reading level books that are individually mailed to the*
24 *residences of kindergarten through grade five (5) students on a weekly*
25 *basis;*

26 *(b) Incorporate at least weekly phone calls, texts, or application notifications in*
27 *multiple languages to a parent or guardian to drive parental and family*

- 1 engagement throughout the duration of the program;
- 2 (c) Provide at least six (6) student selected new books that students get to keep;
- 3 (d) Build on pedagogical and literacy principles to scaffold fluency to improve
- 4 reading comprehension with student exercises;
- 5 (e) Provide a customizable portal to generate individualized data reports for
- 6 analysis of student progress;
- 7 (f) Collect, disaggregate, and distribute detailed data on all metrics of the
- 8 program, such as parental engagement, books read, and allowable
- 9 demographic data;
- 10 (g) Provide summary data to the department for all students served by the
- 11 program;
- 12 (h) Secure the required fifty percent (50%) matching funds; and
- 13 (i) Guarantee that the total cost of the program, including matching funds,
- 14 shall not exceed one hundred twenty dollars (\$120) per student per year.
- 15 (4) The Department of Libraries and Archives shall promulgate regulations in
- 16 accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as necessary to administer the program.
- 17 (5) (a) There is hereby established in the State Treasury a trust and agency
- 18 account to be known as the Kids Love to Read Program fund. The fund
- 19 shall consist of moneys received from state appropriations, gifts, grants, and
- 20 federal funds.
- 21 (b) The fund shall be administered by the Department for Libraries and
- 22 Archives.
- 23 (c) Amounts deposited in the fund shall be used for the purposes set forth in
- 24 this section and for no other purpose.
- 25 (c) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, fund amounts not expended at the close of a
- 26 fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal
- 27 year.

1 ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated General Fund moneys from the Budget
2 Reserve Trust Fund account established in KRS 48.705 in the amount of \$500,000 in
3 fiscal year 2025-2026 to the Kids Love to Read Program fund.